THE CVRE OF THE PLAGUE

BY

AN ANTIDOTE

CALLED

AURUM VITÆ.

Being well approved to be an easie safe, and perfect cure thereof; as also of contagious Agues, or Feavers beginning either Hot or Cold.

The description, order, and use whereof, together with the said *Antidote*, are to be sold at the Shop of NICHOLAS BOURNE, Stationer, at the South Entrance of the ROYAL EXCHANGE.

Invented and produced by John Woodall, *Master in* SURGERY.

Published by Authority.

LONDON:
Printed by E. P. for *Nicholas Bourne*. 1640.

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To the Reader.

The Author sendeth greeting in the Lord.

SHewing, that he having of late published some workes in Surgery, amd amongst the rest, a Treatise concerning the cure of the Plague, which workes, although they are allowed and well approved of by many right worthy personages, for the matter in them contained, yet nevertheless the Author findeth, he hath by improvidence failed of his desires in one of the main points he aimed at, in the production of those workes, which was in the putting forth of the Treatise of the Plague in one and the same Volumne, with the rest of his Workes, for whereas his intent was, that treatise above the rest should have beene common, and open to every person, and also to have bin at an easie rate for the poorer sort, in which case his best course had beene to have printed it by it selfe, so had it borne its owne burthen of price, but by reason that the other treatises are bound up together with it, the book will cost ten shillings, which the poorer sort cannot buy, and they commonly

have the greateſt need thereof, eſpecially in that dreadfull Diſeaſe of the Plague; *wherefore, partly through ſolicitation of ſome Friends, and partly, for that the preſent time of Infection requireth helpe, he hath thought fit to draw out of the ſaid Treatiſe, that one principall Medicine called* Aurum Vitæ, *and to publiſh it by it ſelfe, with an expreſſion of the Vertues and uſes thereof, for the preſent occaſion, and ſervice of any perſon which ſhall thinke good to make uſe thereof, or that ſhall for the future be diſpoſed to be provided before hand, againſt a time of need, of ſuch a Medicine, as will not decay in ſeven yeeres and more.*

VALE.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE CORDIAL ANTIDOTE CALLED *AURUM VITÆ.*

THis Antidote, at one onely time given, taketh away the Peſtilentiall Feaver, and therby cureth the *Plague*, that the patient frequently becommeth well the very next day; eſpecially if the Medicine be taken upon the firſt day of the complaint; he or ſhe obſerving of certain eaſie Rules hereafter preſcribed, concerning the order of adminiſtring thereof, and it is ſo eaſie and ſafe a Medicine, that an Infant, although it ſucke upon the Mothers breaſts, may ſafely take it; yea, and may eaſily be induced to receive it into the Body: for that it is ſmall in quantity, and is without offence in taſte or ſmell to any: Alſo, it may ſafely be given to any Woman that

is great with childe, whereof diverſe trials have bin had with ſafety and comfort.

The Doſe of *Aurum Vitæ.*

The Doſe or quantity ſufficient thereof for a Man or Woman to take at any one time, is but eight graines, and by that proportion, any diſcreet perſon may gather what may be given to any younger perſon: *viz.* A child of two full yeeres old, may ſafely take two graines, and a child of foure or five yeeres old, may take three graines, or foure, and one about foureteene yeeres may take ſix graines, and one of eighteene, nineteene, or twenty yeeres old, or more, may ſafely take the full of eight graines.

And note that this medicine performeth its operation only by ſweat which is the trueſt and ſafeſt way of the entrance upon that cure of the Plague (for the moſt part) and alſo it doth it without moving the body either upwards or downeward; and namely it cauſeth no vomits nor ſtooles: neither is it at all nauſeous or offenſive to the ſtomach, neither any wayes cauſing extraordinary thirſt, nor faintneſſe to the patient, but on the contrary, the patient, when his ſweating is over, ſhall manifeſtly feele cheerefulneſſe, as being much refreſhed thereby, with alſo an abatement of his paines, and his Feaver will be gone, at the onely once taking thereof, neither ſhall the patient need to over-burthen himſelfe with too many cloathes to force him or her to ſweat; for the medicine of it ſelfe ſufficiently performeth that duty, onely hee may bee ordered to have ſomewhat more to cover him, than the ordinary cover-

rings he usually lyeth under, and the roome ought likewise to be kept warme with a fire therein, for that cold aire in time of sweating, is obnoxious and dangerous.

And further, this Medicine may bee kept seven whole yeares and longer, if occasion and need be, it will not decay in that time, for it being truly prepared of gold, is thereby permanent above other Medicines, and looseth not its vertue as vegetable medicines doe: But as Gold, that excellent mineral, excelleth all other mettals, in price and vertue; even so the true prepared medicines thereof, as far exceed al other mineral medicines in their vertues, in the preserving and defending of men from Diseases, as also in curing their infirmities, when by Gods permission they seize upon the bodyes of mankind. Of the continuance of its Vertue.

And whereas other strong medicines commonly worke two wayes at once, namely by swear, and also by Vomit, whereby they fiercely distract the Patient, and produce fearefull accidents, as if death it selfe were at hand, by two violent expulsions at one time, yea oftentimes by a third, viz. By purging downeward: Also this most safe, and sweating medicine, performeth as much as it promiseth, pleasantly, and without rigour or nauious offence, as well in the Plague, as also in other contagious diseases, and namely in the smal Pox, where Nature also striveth to thrust out her venemous enemy, *per poros cutis*, or by the sweat holes of the skin, and that course of curing, is of all other the safest, in a contagious Disease at the first entrance, which then consisteth rather of poysonous va-

vapours then of putrifaction of humours, in which regard the aforesaid course is safe, for it is a fearfull thing, yea, and a desperate one (as I conceive) to purge in the beginning of a contagious disease.

To cure Agues or Feavers that are contagious.

This Medicine is also approved good to be given in the beginning of any contagious Ague or feaver, hot or cold, and for the most part, it cureth the patient at once giving, and it faileth seldome, observing the rules subscribed.

Of the rule and order to be held in the taking of this Antidote for the cure of the Plague.

FIrst the patient is to be demanded if he had any stoole that day, or the day before, and if yea, all is well for that point; if otherwise, and that you find you have time to tarry so long (else not) let the patient have onely a suppository that may move him once, and when he hath had one stoole thereby, proceed without any further delay to the administring of the Antidote; for delayes are dangerous in that fierce disease, and whether the patient at that instant be found sweating, burning, quaking, raving, or in any other distemper give it in, and the party that taketh it, ought to be in his warme bed fitted with sufficient coverings before he takes this Medicine in, then let him take it, either mixed with some cordiall thing, if he please, as a little Mithridate, or give it mixed with the pap of an Apple, which will doe as well, and so it is easiest taken in by infants (as I suppose) for it needs no addition at all to adde vertue to it, onely the addition chiefly serves to carry or convay the medicine

without

without wasting into the stomach, for that it is a powder small in quantity, and subject to water.

Also the party that is to take it, must have before hand an ordinary posset of Ale and milke to the quantity of a quart very warm, which when he hath taken his medicine, shortly after let him drink a reasonable full draught of the said posset well warmed, and then lying on the one side, which side the patient please, let him be warme covered, head, face and all, leaving full breathing scope, and so in Gods name let him lye still and sweat gently, if he can beare it for three or foure houres were best, however as he thirsteth, let him freely take warme posset drink, which were best to be given him in some cruet or spout pot, if such were at hands, that he take no ayre by raising himselfe up in drinking. And when he hath performed his due sweating, let him be wiped dry and shifted, and then give the patient some warme broath. And further by diverse experiences the Author hath found, that a patient so healed (shifting his cloaths) infecteth not another, although he goe abroad the next day, for by that strong sweating the venome of the disease is wholy evaporated & gon, so that the next day he may by Gods mercy safely goe abroad, but for the day of his sweating let him keepe within, and give him food competent in a sparing quantity, such as is of a light digestion, and deny him not drinke, so that it be somewhat warme at the fire only for that day.

Necessaries to be provided before the taking.

Thus much for those which take the medicine within 24 houres of the first complaint, sensible to such as the disease hath taken hold of, namely that before the receite of the aforesaid Antidote

Antidote, the patient have outward rumours, swellings or Soares, as Botches, Carbuncles, or blaines, not yet broken nor ripe, if hee take the medicine as aforesaid, and sweat well upon it, the venome of the soares as is said, shall, through Gods Mercy, be so evapourated by his sweating, that the swellings shall decline of themselves, and not at all come forward, and if any after do break, as being formerly supperated, or ripe before the medicine tooke place, they also shall, as ordinary boyles, easily and quickly heale with every meane medicine.

And notwithstanding generally, once swearing healeth the Patient, yet nevertheleſſe if occasion bee, hee may safely take a second Doſſ, or proportion, yea, and a third without danger; as diverse have done, so that he may be the more confident of perfect health; nevertheleſſe if he find his desire by the first, let him not take a second, and if by a second, let him not take a third, for sweating medicines, too often taken, are obnoxious to a dejected weeke patient.

The Vertue of the precedent Antidote, in the cure of the small Pox.

THe Diseaſe of the small Pox, hath great affinity with that moſt fearefull Diseaſe of the *Plague*, being also contagious and deadly often times, and the cure thereof I have experienced to be by the same way, as the cure of the *Plague*, only the cure of the small Pox succeeds beſt, if it be begun before that they doe manifeſt themselvs, and namely, in the first day of the Feaver, or soon after, for that diseaſe hath ever a foreunning hot feaver,

or Ague, for a messenger, wherfore it were not amisse for any that hath young children, especially in times that are contagious and infectious, to be prepared with remedies at hand, to fit such an unwelcome guest, considering the medicine will keep its Vertue for more then seven yeeres.

Moreover, for the manner of the sweating in the small Pox, let it bee very wearily and gently, and with no more cloathes then will keepe the patients sweating, and defend them from taking cold, and deny not them warm posset-drinke in the time of their sweating.

Also, when any person is desirous to take the benefit of the aforesaid medicine, having an Ague, or Feaver, with *paraxismes* or fits, let him not take the medicine in the time of the fit, but one full houre as is said, before the fit, or rather more, but if the Feaver be continuall, as often in that fierce disease of the Plague it is, give it at any time in manner aforesaid; for if he take it, and his burning change into sweating, which the medicine usually produceth, the feare of Death in the Patient is halfe over.

And further of a truth, the Author can affirme that he hath cured some by the heretofore mentioned Antidote, that had the Pestities, or spots of the Plague, vulgarly called Gods tokens, upon them, and they are yet living witnesses thereof; for which, and all other his exceeding favours in that fearefull disease, the Almighty God alone be glorified: And so the Author briefly concludeth with a Copy of a certificate concerning the Vertue of the before mentioned Antidote, *Aurum Vitæ*, referring

ring the Reader for further attestation to the Authors Booke called the *Surgions Mate*, or *Militarie and domestike Surgerie*.

The Copy of a Certificate, concerning the Vertue of the precedent Antidote, called *Aurum Vitæ*, from the Justices, Ministers, and other the Officers of the Parish of S. *Margaret Westminster*, as it was by them presented to the Right Honourable *Henry*, Earle of *Manchester*, Lord Privy Seal, &c. which by his Lordship was presented to the rest of his Majesties most Honourable Privy Counsell.

WEE the Inhabitants of Saint *Margarets* in Westminster whose names are here under written, doe most humbly certifie your Lordships, and that upon our owne knowledge, that in this time of visitation of the Plague, Feavers, Agues, and other diseases, which have beene very grievous and great afflictions unto us: It pleased Almighty God by the hands of one *John Woodall* Chirurgion of the East India Company, and of his Majesties Hospitall of Saint *Bartholomewes* in London, a learned, judiciall and expert man, which said *John Woodall* about five weekes before Michaelmas last, delivered unto some of us, who were Officers in this said Parish, an Antidote composed in Pills, which hee had made up, with directions how they should be administred to such as had the Plague, Feavers, Agues, or any such violent diseases, that then remained among us; which said Pills have beene employed very carefully, according to

to his said directions, and administred to three-score severall persons, some of this new Feaver, some of the small Pox, some Agues, and some other diseases, but most, to them that were visited with the Plague, which had risings, Soares, Carbuncles, Blaines, and were certainely knowne to have that fearefull disease, all which persons recovered, and not one of all them that have taken the said Pils, dyed, thanks be given to Almighty God: neither can we doe lesse than publish the great skill, judgement, and charity of the said *Iohn VVoodall*, by whose industry and care this Antidote hath wrought so good effect, and did bestow them freely, without one penny recompence for the same.

VVestminster the 6 of October, 1638.

Pet. Heywood, Iustice.

Rob. VVhite, sub-Curate.

Thomas Mar.
Richard Potter.
} Church-Wardens.

VVilliam Hawkins.

Copia vera *Tho. Kirke,*
Edward Martin.

YEt considering, that some persons may be as desirous of preservative Medicines for prevention of danger that may befall them: As others are for curative helpes, when the disease hath taken hold of them: The Author hath briefly drawne out of his former workes, two ready preservative helpes; the one Powder, to be inwardly received, fasting each morning, either in beer, ale, or wine, and fast two houres after the receiving it. And note also, there may be safely taken the quantity of eight graines thereof more or lesse, according to the strength of the patient, the Medicine being safe, although they take more in quantity then is prescribed. The other Medicine is made ready in a Box, to bee smelt unto; both being well approved preservatives. But nevertheless, with unfained acknowledgment, the Almighty above sendeth, preserveth from, and cureth the Plague, of his infinite power and great Mercy; to whom be given all glory, Amen.

The recited Preservatives, are to be sold with the Antidote, by Nicholas Bourne, *as aforesaid.*